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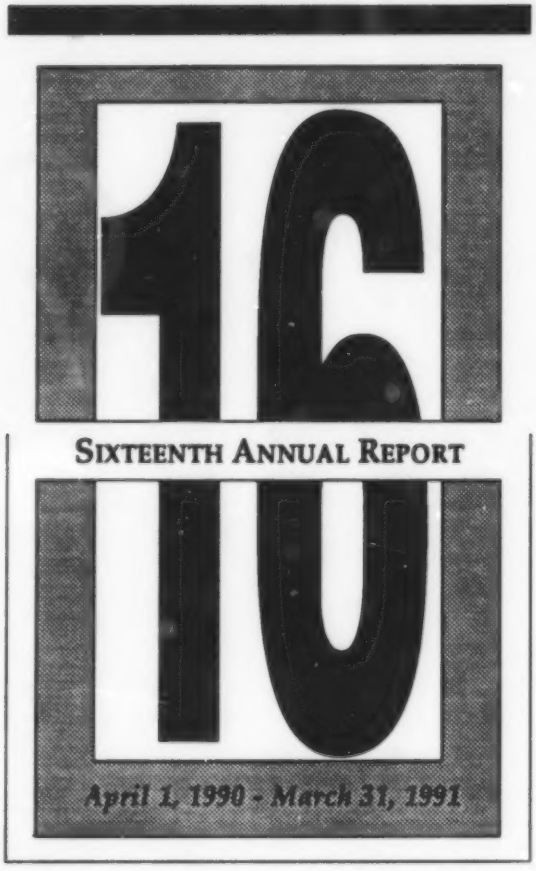

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

92-07416/

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Alberta
TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION

Office of the Minister

Room 425 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-3672

March 31, 1992

The Honourable Dr. David Carter
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Dear Sir:

It is my honour to submit the 16th Annual Report of Alberta Recreation and Parks for the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Sparrow
Minister

Alberta
TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION

Office of the Deputy Minister

16th Floor, Standard Life Centre, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N4 403/427-3948

March 31, 1992

The Honourable Don Sparrow
Minister,
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Sir:

It is my pleasure to submit the 16th Annual Report of Alberta Recreation and Parks for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Nowicki

Julian J. Nowicki
Deputy Minister

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Alberta Recreation and Parks was established in 1979. It was previously entitled the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife.

The primary purpose of the department is to enhance the individual and social well-being of Albertans and the economy of Alberta. Alberta Recreation and Parks provides and encourages the provision of recreation and sport opportunities, and participates in a provincial system for the protection and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the province.

The department develops, operates, maintains and manages provincial parks, ecological reserves, wilderness areas and provincial recreation areas; provides grants to municipalities and community-based organizations to develop and operate recreation, parks and sport facilities and provides grants to provincial sport and recreation associations for athlete development and participation programs.

The department also consults with and provides administrative support services to municipalities, community-based organizations and sport and recreation associations and organizes and/or provides funding support to host athletic games and events.

Recreation and Parks is divided into three divisions: the Recreation Development Division, the Provincial Parks Service, and the Corporate Services Division.

Kananaskis Country and two Crown Corporations, the Alberta Sport Council established in 1984 and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation established in 1976, also fall under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Alberta Recreation and Parks.

At time of printing, the Departments of Tourism and Recreation and Parks had been amalgamated. The letterhead of the new department, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation was used by the minister and deputy minister to reflect the new department.

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

INTRODUCTION

A major role of the Communications Branch is to explain to Albertans how the department's programs, services and policies promote, develop and maintain recreation facilities and opportunities for everyone in the province.

To meet this objective, the branch provides professional public relations advice, assistance and support to department management and staff in all phases of communications, from strategic planning to the production of promotional items.

The branch is staffed by communication and public relations specialists. Assistance on creative development, print, audio-visual, and specialty items is provided through the Public Affairs Bureau to ensure that all communication materials meet Alberta Government standards.

HIGHLIGHTS

During 1990-91, the Communications Branch staged news conferences and special events for a number of department programs, including the participation of Team Alberta at the 1990 Western Canada Summer Games and the 1991 Canada Winter Games, the establishment of Rumsey Ecological Reserve and the opening of the Amerada Multi-Use Recreation Trail at Crimson Lake Provincial Park.

The Communications Branch also assisted in other media and public relations activities including the public participation sessions for the designation of Lakeland Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area, the first annual Parks Day, Family Day activities and Canada's Fitweek.

Expertise and support were also provided to the department's two crown corporations, the Alberta Sport Council and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation on a number of program initiatives.

Branch priorities included expanding the identity program to incorporate the Provincial Parks Service division, developing a seven-minute promotional video on the department and continuing the summer display program which incorporated the ministry's video wall. In addition, the department staff newsletter, RAP Sheet, was re-evaluated and changed to better reflect the image of the department.

During 1990-91, the branch researched and drafted roughly 150 speeches, messages and news releases, placed advertising and coordinated more than 400 print and graphic design projects.

KANANASKIS COUNTRY

Introduction

Kananaskis Country consists of 404,801 hectares (one million acres) of Crown land in the Bow-Crow Forest Reserve in the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Within its boundaries are three provincial parks and 91 provincial recreation areas. The total number of provincial recreation areas increased from 82 to 91 during 1990-91 as a result of nine areas being acquired by Kananaskis Country: Highwood House, Missing Link Trailhead, Bighorn day-use area, Elbow Launch, Canoe Meadows, Moose Mountain Ridge Trail, Ing's Mine day-use, Evan-Thomas Trailhead and Mt. Shark Trailhead.

Kananaskis Country administration is also responsible for Improvement District No. 5, the local municipal authority. Capital development and operation of both entities is the responsibility of the managing director who reports to the Minister of Recreation and Parks and also to Municipal Affairs for certain improvement district matters.

There are four principal Kananaskis Country responsibility areas, each managed by a director.

Planning And Construction

Planning and Construction plans, organizes and controls construction activities related to the management of capital development projects. As well, it is responsible for major maintenance and redevelopment of a wide variety of facilities. It also inspects non-government projects in Kananaskis Country and Improvement District No. 5; develops a variety of plans and designs for recreation activities and facilities; coordinates land-related referrals and provides building inspection services to Improvement District No. 5.

Operations

Operations is responsible for all outdoor recreation programs presented through Kananaskis Country including general operations, park ranger service, interpretive services, resource management, public safety and maintenance.

Finance And Administration

Finance and Administration is responsible for budgets, expenditures, revenue collections, personnel coordination and financial systems. It is also responsible for certain contract administration, the financial audit of leased operations within Kananaskis Country, and the review and updating of policies and procedures.

Communications And Public Affairs

Communications and Public Affairs, assigned to Kananaskis Country by the Public Affairs Bureau, develops public relations, advertising and marketing programs, and disseminates information through information outlets and Visitor Information Centres.

HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATIONS

Kananaskis Country played host to millions of visitors in 1990-91. Kananaskis Country's recorded camper nights totalled 415,783. Attendance at interpretive events at the nine campgrounds was 81,816 and direct public contacts by interpreters totalled 89,511. There were 162,909 information contacts at campground check-in stations and 264,085 information contacts at the six information centres while Environmental Education had 3,283 contacts, primarily with teachers and community leaders. Park rangers continued to play an important role in Kananaskis Country with more than 121,000 information contacts and, under the direction of a member of the Kananaskis Country Public Safety Section, performed 306 emergency rescues or evacuations.

Maintenance and service was provided to the 2,946 campsites in 30 auto-accessible campgrounds, 13 group camps, 15 backcountry (tenting only, hike-in) campgrounds, 1,131 day-use sites and 1,306 kilometres (812 miles) of trails.

William Watson Lodge, Kananaskis Country's facility for overnight accommodation for people with disabilities, continued to operate at peak capacity with 26,387 overnight guests and a monthly waiting list of up to 400 parties.

Special events throughout the year in Kananaskis Country included dog sled races, white water kayak competitions, orienteering events, trail ride competitions, motorcycle races, mountain bike and road bicycle races, the Kananaskis K100 Road Relay race, cross-country ski races and biathlon events.

The Canmore Nordic Centre continued to be very popular with the public and played host to numerous competitive events, winter and summer. Some major events included the Nordic Combined Canadian Championships, Alberta International Sled Dog Classic, XII World Winter Games for the Deaf, Alberta-Soviet Union Sport Exchange, Rocky Mountain Cup, Canada Cup Mountain Bike Race and the Canadian Mountain Bike Championships. Participants and spectators at the facility totalled an estimated 80,000 in summer and 110,000 in winter.

Communications and Public Affairs staff participated in numerous events and tours associated with the Tenth Anniversary of the twinning of Alberta and the province of Hokkaido, Japan. At the Calgary Stampede in July, more than 10,000 people visited Kananaskis Country's display booth.

CAPITAL

Work continued on a large picnic area with a fish pond, part of the hiking/bicycle/cross-country ski trails at Ribbon Creek/Kananaskis Village .

As well, work continued on the canoe/kayak launch on the Elbow River near Moose Mountain and on the Bill Benson Trail, another in the series of barrier-free trails in Kananakis Country. When completed, the trail will connect William Watson Lodge with the shoreline of Lower Kananaskis Lake.

The main lodge building at William Watson Lodge was enlarged to provide a main entrance vestibule with automatic doors, an information area and a reception desk to better serve visitors with disabilities. Also added was an equipment storage room, first aid room and janitorial storage space.

Utilizing a former gravel pit area reclaimed by Alberta Environment, a new day-use area was developed in the Smith-Dorrien Valley and at Allen Bill Pond in East Kananaskis Country, a new barrier-free trail was developed.

At the Canmore Nordic Centre, racing and recreational trails were upgraded and a two kilometre snowmobile trail was developed in the Cataract Creek Snow Vehicle Land Use Zone.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Introduction

The Recreation Development Division promotes recreation and sport development in Alberta. It provides financial assistance, information and consulting services to municipal recreation authorities, sport and recreation associations and other voluntary organizations in the province.

The division provides grants to municipal recreation authorities for facility capital development and operations, and general recreation programming. Grants are also provided to provincial associations for program and organizational development.

From a decentralized, field-operational base, the division provides a broad range of advisory services to municipalities and associations. Information is provided on leadership development, fitness, leisure lifestyle development, facility operations, program planning, association development and recreation trends and practices.

Community Recreation And Sport Branch

The Community Recreation and Sport Branch provides support to Alberta's recreation delivery system in municipalities and at the local level. Support includes providing funding through grant programs, direct client consulting services, training opportunities, distributing resource materials and advocacy of the benefits of recreation.

Branch decentralization, initiated last year, continued with resources, systems, programs and responsibilities delegated to regional offices.

Service delivery was provided directly to the client through six regional areas: Southern Alberta, Big Country, Parkland, Central Alberta, Eastern Alberta and Northern Alberta. Specialized support was provided to these regional operations by the Branch Management Section, the Field Technical Support Section and the Indoor Facilities Unit.

Highlights

The branch continued to manage the government's major recreation grant program, the Community Recreation/Cultural(CR/C) Grant Program. During 1990-91, an $8 per capita grant was provided for a total of over $20 million to municipalities and community organizations. Funds assisted with facility development, management and operation, the development and operation of recreation programs and services, and recreation planning. The branch conducted workshops and seminars and provided on-site assistance to municipalities and community organizations regarding the program.

The branch also managed three grant programs to support outdoor recreation and sport facilities: the Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas Program (MR/TA), the Urban Parks Program and the Capital City Recreation Park Program.

The MR/TA program provided over $2.3 million in capital funding through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to support the capital development of parks throughout the province. The department also provided over $2.8 million in operating funds to assist with operating costs at more than 180 MR/TA sites through this program.

The Urban Parks Program provided $3 million in capital from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to the communities of St. Albert, Fort McMurray, County of Strathcona, Leduc, Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Spruce Grove, Airdrie, Wetaskiwin, Edmonton and Calgary. Under Phase I, over $3 million in operating funds were provided to the communities of Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Lloydminster and Red Deer.

The Capital City Recreation Park Program provided nearly $2 million in operating funds to the City of

Edmonton to assist with operating the river valley park system.

By providing technical advice and resource materials, and sponsoring numerous workshops across the province, the branch supported recreation practitioners, recreation board members and municipal councillors in the delivery of community-level recreation and parks services to Albertans.

The types of consulting/information services included: board/council development; executive, staff and organization development; volunteer development; leadership development; program planning; recreation and parks administration; community recreation planning; bylaw review; regional recreation programs and cost sharing and needs assessment studies. The Community Recreation Development Grant Program provided funding for disabled recreation support and special needs.

The branch maintained 14 regional offices in communities throughout Alberta to provide services closer to its clients: the municipalities and community groups that provide recreation, sport and leisure programs to Albertans at the local level.

Provincial Recreation and Sport Branch

The Provincial Recreation and Sport Branch continued to support the development of recreation, sport and fitness programs and services at the provincial level.

The branch delivered its services through four sections: Provincial Programs Services, Provincial Volunteer Support Centres, Interprovincial Games and Fitness and Leisure Services. The branch also worked closely with the ministry's two Crown Corporations, the Alberta Sport Council and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Highlights

The branch provided consulting services and $1,892,139 in operating grants to 106 recognized provincial recreation and sport associations for administrative support, leadership and program development. The Percy Page Centre provided administrative services and support to 57 resident and 30 active non-resident provincial sport and recreation associations.

The Blue Lake Leadership Development Centre, near Hinton, continued to provide courses focussing on developing leadership, personal and organizational skills for recreation volunteers.

The branch supported sport exchanges between Alberta and its sister provinces of Hokkaido, Japan; Kangwon, Korea and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. The branch also provided financial and consulting assistance to provincial sport associations involved in Interprovincial Games.

In preparation for the 1990 Western Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the branch assisted 30 provincial sport organizations involved in the Games. A total of 705 athletes and coaches, in addition to 40 Alberta officials made up Team Alberta for the 1990 Western Canada Summer Games. The branch worked with 19 provincial sport organizations in preparation for the 1991 Canada Winter Games which were held in Prince Edward Island. Team Alberta consisted of 290 athletes and coaches and 20 officials from Alberta. During 1990-91, the branch began preparing for Alberta's involvement in the 1992 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse. In addition, the branch participated in the site evaluation tour for the 1995 Canada Winter Games which resulted in Grande Prairie being selected as the 1995 host city.

The branch also provided consulting services to Grande Prairie, the host of the 1995 Canada Winter Games, and performed preparatory work to host the 1994 Arctic Winter Games in northern Alberta.

Programs and services continued to be provided to help Albertans enhance their individual lifestyles through leisure and physical activities. Support was provided to a network of provincial and regional fitness and lifestyle centres located throughout the province. These centres provided direct services to approximately 80,000 Albertans.

The branch continued to be involved in promotional/participation events such as Canada Fitweek, National Family Week, National Senior's Safety Week, and Alberta Family Day. Financial assistance was provided to Alberta organizations that hosted 32 national and international sport championships. The branch also offered workshops that served volunteers and professionals in fitness, leadership, association management, coaching and general lifestyle development.

Administration Branch

The Administration Branch provided management support services in fiscal planning, budget development and division expenditure reporting. Other areas of support services included coordinating the division's records management program, assets inventory reporting and facilitating the purchases and expenditures of the division.

PROVINCIAL PARKS SERVICE

The Provincial Parks Service division is responsible for the planning, development and operation of 59 provincial parks and 52 provincial recreation areas (excluding Kananaskis Country), three wilderness areas and 12 ecological reserves. It is also responsible for upgrading and redevelopment projects in provincial parks and provincial recreation areas, as well as capital planning programs, with a continued focus on providing new and improved barrier-free access for wheelchair and disabled visitors to Alberta's provincial parks.

The division provides outdoor recreation opportunities to meet public needs and examines and acquires prime recreation and conservation lands. In addition it plans, designs, develops and operates facilities to support both outdoor recreation and conservation.

In 1990, the Provincial Parks Service division underwent a major reorganization, focussing on decentralizing designated services to the regional level. As a result, a new branch was formed, the Management Support Branch. The new branch encompassed the former Parks Planning and Visitor Services Branches. It is responsible for planning, land management and operating systems.

With the reorganization, the four regional offices assumed responsibility for park planning, disposition management and capital development.

The division also provides support to the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Park Ventures Fund, which contributes to park enhancement and conservation enrichment programs in Alberta.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 1990-91, the division completed the decentralization of additional management and program administration responsibilities. The organizational structure was changed to increase efficient and effective delivery of programs and services to the public and the department. Resources in Edmonton were amalgamated into two branches providing policy management, administrative and technical support to the four regions. In the four regions' jurisdictions, district offices were established to provide closer liaison and service to the public. Responsibility for park planning, design, construction and disposition management to the regions was completed in 1990/91.

Provincial parks and provincial recreation areas hosted 1,031,161 individual camper nights (defined as one person camping for one night) in its 9,104 campsites and 50 group camping areas. An additional 5,312,091 people visited these areas as day visitors.

A review of Alberta Provincial Park camping fees was initiated to ensure two objectives were being met. First, that fees were comparable with fees charged for similar camping facilities in national parks, provincial parks in other provinces and in privately-owned campgrounds in Alberta. Second, that a greater percentage of the cost of operating campgrounds could be recovered. Based on this review, the decision was made to increase provincial park camping fees beginning in 1991/92.

In the fall of 1990, as a result of strong public input to consolidate provincial campgrounds under the administration of one department, discussions began between the Departments of Environment and Transportation and Utilities to transfer campground and recreation areas to Alberta Recreation and Parks. These discussions culminated in the transfer of all recreation sites, previously operated by the two departments, to become Provincial Recreation Areas operated by Alberta Recreation and Parks. The formal transfer of title to these areas is expected to be completed by the 1992 operating season.

Major maintenance projects included regravelling of roads, resanding of beaches, repair to buildings and repainting of facilities in several provincial parks.

The Provincial Parks Service division continues to work with other government departments, private agencies, non-profit societies, interest groups and industry in the promotion of environmental education.

The Provincial Parks Service division was promoted at trade fairs, sports and leisure shows throughout the province.

To recognize the 60th anniversary of provincial parks in Alberta (1932-1992), the division initiated planning for special events, activities and celebrations that would take place throughout the province in 1992.

Management Support Branch

Within the Management Support Branch, the Planning and Land Management Section is responsible for the parks system and long-range planning, coordinating interdepartmental referrals, land acquisitions and transfers, integrated resource planning and the ecological reserves program.

The Operating Systems Section is responsible for developing programs, operating strategies, division-wide policies, procedures and legislation relating to park management, operations and service delivery. The section also coordinates management information programs (including visitor statistics), enforcement, public safety, environmental education, volunteer programs, and legislation review.

In 1990/91, management of volunteer programs and projects was coordinated by the branch.

Highlights

Three events highlighted the Ecological Reserves Program in 1990/91; Rumsey Ecological Reserve, encompassing 34.3 square kilometres (21 miles) of aspen grove prairie parkland in central Alberta, was established as the 12th ecological reserve. Examination of Egg Island in Lake Athabasca, home to the only nesting colony of Caspion terns in Alberta was initiated. Lastly, a major review of the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act was conducted with presentations received by the Advisory Committee from a number of interest groups from across Alberta.

The Campground Host Program was delivered in a number of provincial parks by 29 volunteers, donating over 2500 hours of volunteer time. A pilot Good Ambassador Program was initiated with selected vacationing volunteer hosts promoting provincial parks outside of the province. Volunteers young and old assisted in parks clean-up and tree planting projects. Activities for special events, such as the province-wide Family Day and the Canada-wide Parks Day, were accomplished with the support of volunteers. Over 500 volunteers, from campground hosts and ambassadors to youth groups, donated approximately 7500 hours of volunteer time.

Environmental Education Programs were initiated by the branch in promoting provincial parks as "Outdoor Classrooms". Development began on a Junior High Learning Resource Manual as well as a three year plan for updating existing environmental education materials.

Ongoing liaison continued with the Canadian Parks Service and provincial park agencies across Canada on the development of a Junior Naturalist Program for use in all provincial and national parks across Canada. Environmental education workshops were held for teachers from a number of schools throughout the region.

Administration And Technical Support Branch

In 1990, the Administration and Technical Support Branch was formed to provide program support responsibilities previously provided by the Project Management Branch and the Divisional Support Branch. The branch provided support in finance, administration, professional and technical services to the division. This included coordination and support in areas such as budget development, contract administration, commercial operating agreements and expenditure monitoring.

Administration services included records management, word processing services and staff development coordination.

Highlights

The branch coordinated and implemented a mobile radio system and provided ongoing management of central vehicle services and equipment.

Specialized technical services were provided in land surveying, mapping, aerial photography, graphics, sign and display productions.

The branch assisted with relocating staff in Edmonton and the regions.

Northern Region

The Northern Region, located in Valleyview, has district offices in Peace River and Lesser Slave Lake, and administers 14 provincial parks, six provincial recreation areas and two ecological reserves.

Highlights

Additional responsibilities were assumed as a result of the decentralization and employees were hired to manage new functional responsibilities. Partial decentralization of regional administration was accomplished in 1991 by establishing a separate office for the Peace River District in the Provincial Building in Valleyview, Alberta.

The private sector continued to provide grounds and janitorial services, solid and liquid waste disposal, fire hazard reduction and forest management programs in 1990-91. A private campground operator continued to manage Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park campground.

Partnerships were established with many local groups and outside agencies to assist the parks in promoting and delivering park programs and special events. Barrier-free access to the boat launch and seawall was constructed at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park with funds donated by Whitecourt Fish and Game Association and asphalt donated by De Wit Holdings Inc. Paving.

Construction of a new campground commenced at the Dunvegan Provincial Recreation Area. Notikewin and O'Brien Provincial Parks were restored after spring flooding of the Peace and Wapiti Rivers. A new group-use area was completed at Young's Point Provincial Park and campsites were provided with power at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park. As well, a wading pool was constructed at Winagami Lake Provincial Park.

West Central

The West Central Region, located in Rimbey, has district offices in Wabamum Lake Provincial Park, Aspen Beach Provincial Park (Gull Lake) and Fish Creek Provincial Park (Calgary) and administers 17 provincial parks, 10 provincial recreation areas, two ecological reserves and three wilderness areas.

Highlights

A new boat launch, parking area and picnic facility were constructed at Ghost Reservoir Provincial Recreation Area, a new campground was completed at Calhoun Bay Provincial Recreation Area and the redevelopment of Thunder Lake Provincial Park was completed. At Aspen Beach Provincial Park, the development of Brewer's Campground was completed and upgrading of the main boat launch, beach, picnicking and parking facilities began.

In the Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves Program, draft management plans were completed for each of the three wilderness areas: Ghost River, Siffleur and White Goat. In cooperation with the Canadian Parks Service and the World Wildlife Fund, the region continued gathering information on the status of the endangered woodland caribou in the Siffleur and White Goat Wilderness areas and adjacent parts of Banff and Jasper National Parks.

New initiatives were undertaken in various areas to enhance services to park visitors. Cooperative ventures with private sector sponsors and volunteers were emphasized. This included working with Weldwood Forest Products on information and interpretive programs at William A. Switzer Provincial Park; Amerada Minerals to develop hiking trails in Crimson Lake Provincial Park; Canadian National Sportsman's Shows and the Marine Trades Association of Alberta to develop boat launch and docking facilities at Ghost Reservoir; numerous local businesses to publish park newspapers and many individual volunteers to support special events such as Parks Day, Family Day and Environment Week. Accessibility to park facilities was assessed and a significant program to expand barrier-free access for the handicapped to park opportunities was initiated.

The Shannon Terrace Environmental Education Centre in Fish Creek Provincial Park saw usage by school groups increase by 14 percent. The region also assisted the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation and local volunteer groups in initiating recreation development on privately donated lands near Onoway.

East Central Region

The East Central Region of the Provincial Parks Service division, has a regional office located in Lac La Biche and district offices in Parkland, Cold Lake and Lakeland. It administers 12 provincial parks, 27 provincial recreation areas and four ecological reserves.

Highlights

Capital upgrading was concluded at Gregoire Lake Provincial Park when the office maintenance building was completed. A new water system and wading pool were developed at Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park and at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park upgrading continued into its second year with redevelopment of Campground A, day-use areas and the development of new shower/washroom facilities.

The government's proposal to establish Lakeland Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area continued. Extensive and ongoing consultation with other government agencies, vested interest groups and a series of public open houses and meetings were held. A biophysical overview of the proposed park/recreation area was also completed.

Contracting out of campground operations at Long Lake Provincial Park and the golf course operation at Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park were initiated.

Southern Region

The Southern Region, located in Vulcan, has district offices in Lethbridge, Brooks and Cypress Hills Provincial Park, and administers 16 provincial parks, nine provincial recreation areas and four ecological reserves.

Highlights

A call for proposal for a private campground operator at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park was initiated in the spring of 1990 and awarded in the fall.

In Cypress Hills Provincial Park the fourth phase of the Forest Management Plan was completed with the fifth and final stage to commence the following year. The park also conducted its annual elk management hunt during the fall season.

Following the signing of an agreement between Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1989, establishing the first Interprovincial Park in the province, an interprovincial committee was appointed in 1990/91. Representatives from Alberta, Saskatchewan and National Parks met to establish cooperative programs between the two provinces in the areas of staff training, recreation programs, information/orientation services and special events.

A multi-year upgrading project was initiated at Dinosaur Provincial Park with construction beginning on new water and sewer treatment facilities in preparation for further upgrading and redevelopment of camping and day-use facilities. Design of a concession/shower building, slated for construction in 1992, was completed and two new and larger capacity public tour buses were purchased and put into operation.

Major upgrading and redevelopment at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park campground and day-use facilities included significant improvement to the public swimming beach. Construction of a group-use shelter and the rock art interpretive trail was completed at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. A new playground, footpaths, group-use toilet facilities and trailer dump station were completed at Park Lake Provincial Park.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Introduction

The Corporate Services Division supports department management in policy development, issues management, program planning and evaluation, financial planning and budgeting, and developing and maintaining office and management information systems. It also provides general administrative support.

The division is also responsible for implementing various government-wide systems at the department level. This includes responsibility for the developing and reviewing of financial systems, disbursement, revenue and accounting and pay and benefits administration.

Highlights

During the 1990-91 fiscal year, the Corporate Services Division continued to implement department restraint initiatives. The division focussed on the creation of efficiencies through organizational realignment, and the re-defining and/or automating of department processes.

During 1990-91, services were provided through four functional/organizational groups: Corporate Planning Services, Information Services, Financial Services and Human Resources.

Corporate Planning Services Branch

The Corporate Planning Services Branch provided support in developing department-level policy, strategic direction and priorities. The branch helped coordinate the development and maintenance of department legislation and regulations and various inter-divisional and interdepartmental initiatives.

The branch coordinated the department financial planning process, documented and presented department budgets, and monitored expenditures against budget.

Aside from routine responsibilities, the branch assisted department management in a review of department policy organization and strategic directions. Other achievements included evaluation of the economic impact of different types of programs funded by the department.

Information Services Branch

The Information Services Branch provided support in the areas of electronic data processing and office automation. Services included strategic and operational planning; systems development and maintenance; telecommunications and user support.

A decision was made to decentralize the delivery of information services, effective April 1991, by locating support analysts within the operating divisions. To complement the Ministry's decentralization initiative, enhancements were made to the Ministry's telecommunications capabilities to provide access to financial systems and electronic mail at the Ministry's regional offices.

Systems projects continued to focus on developing new microcomputer-based systems and, as a result, two networked systems were implemented. The Community Recreation Annual Grants System processes and records grants issued under the Community Recreation/ Cultural Grant Program. The Blue Lake System processes and tracks registrants, instructors, accommodation, and financial data for courses offered at the Blue Lake Centre.

To optimize the use of the facilities at the William Watson Lodge in Kananaskis Country, a reservation system was developed and put into use.

Athlete information systems were implemented to facilitate the administration of athletes attending the Western Canada Summer Games and the Canada Winter Games.

Systems were also completed in the areas of revenue identifications and prenumbered forms tracking.

Financial Services Branch

Financial Services were provided through two functional/ organizational groups: Financial Services and Internal Audit.

The Financial Services Branch designed, implemented and monitored department financial systems and documented financial policies and procedures. The branch was also responsible for pre-audit, processing and accounting for disbursements; administration of contracts, revenue and securities; maintenance of trusts, assets and the revolving funds and administration of pay and benefits.

As well as ongoing activities, the branch also initiated projects related to the implementation of self pay purchase orders and an accountable advance control system.

The branch expanded point of sale terminals to include all possible park reservation offices; participated in the development of a government-wide commitment system; updated the status report on records management in the department which will result in the development of a long-term records management plan and continued a major cleanup of records which dated back a number of years.

The department internal auditor reported to the department audit committee. A total of 11 audits were completed.

Human Resources Branch

The Human Resource Services Branch was responsible for implementing government-wide programs related to classification, recruitment and selection, employee relations, staff development and training and occupational health and safety. In addition, branch staff provided consultation, interpretation and advice to department staff regarding government and departmental human resource policies, procedures and issues.

Aside from the provision of ongoing services in 1990/91, branch staff continued to assist with the restructuring and decentralization of the Provincial Parks Service division. This was the major human resource initiative during the year.

Considerable individual assistance was provided to staff affected by the restructuring, ranging from job search skills training to individual counselling. In the majority of cases, staff were placed in alternate jobs within the department or within government.

In staff development and training, branch staff provided consultation regarding management and non-management training needs and coordinated external training courses for department staff. As well, branch staff continued to emphasize career development for women through career development seminars and career counselling.

In the area of occupational health and safety, through extensive use of employee joint committees, branch staff continued efforts to minimize the incidence of and costs associated with occupational accidents and injuries.

APPENDICES

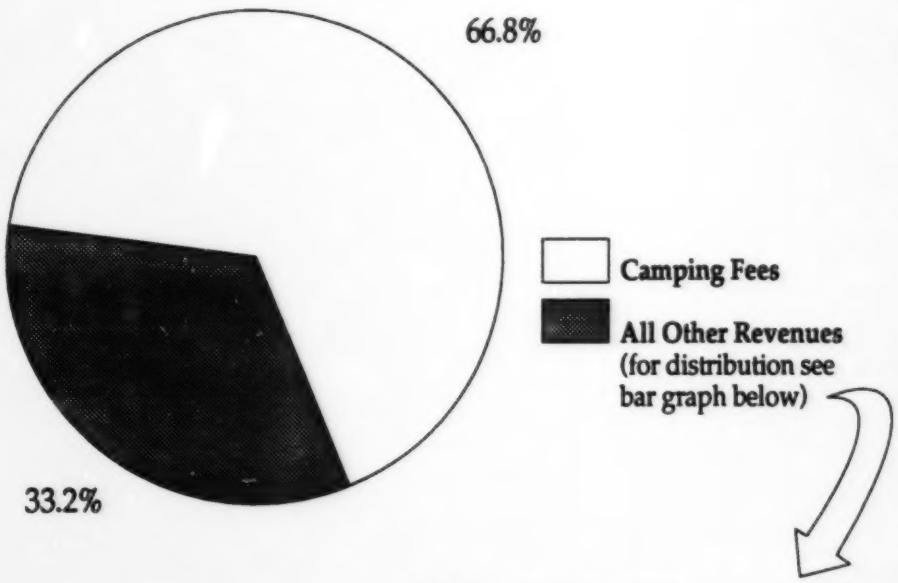
Fees, Licenses And Permits

		Total
Camping Fees		$2,622,626
Department of Recreation & Parks	$1,852,149	
Kananaskis Country	770,477	
Disposition Fees		333,935
Department of Recreation & Parks	289,913	
Kananaskis Country	44,022	
Special User Fees		66,928
Department of Recreation & Parks	0	
Kananaskis Country	66,928	
Recreation Development Fees	156,734	156,734
Miscellaneous		24,608
Department of Recreation & Parks	22,634	
Kananis Country	1,974	

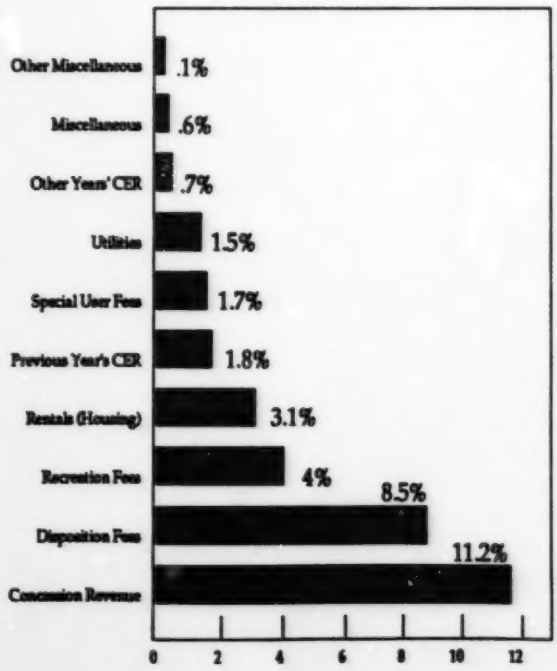
Other Revenue

Concession Revenue		439,007
Department of Recreation & Parks	128,080	
Kananaskis Country	310,927	
Utilities		57,193
Department of Recreation & Parks	45,063	
Kananaskis Country	12,130	
Rentals (Housing & Accommocation)		122,340
Department of Recreation & Parks	121,380	
Kananaskis Country	960	
Miscellaneous		3,384
Department of Recreation & Parks	3,160	
Kananaskis Country	224	
Previous Years Refunds of Expenditure		97,886
Department of Recreation & Parks	28,802	
Kananaskis Country	69,084	
TOTAL	**$3,924,641**	**$3,924,641**

ALBERTA RECREATION AND PARKS
Revenue Sources
1990-1991



All Other Revenues
(Cumulative total 33.2%)

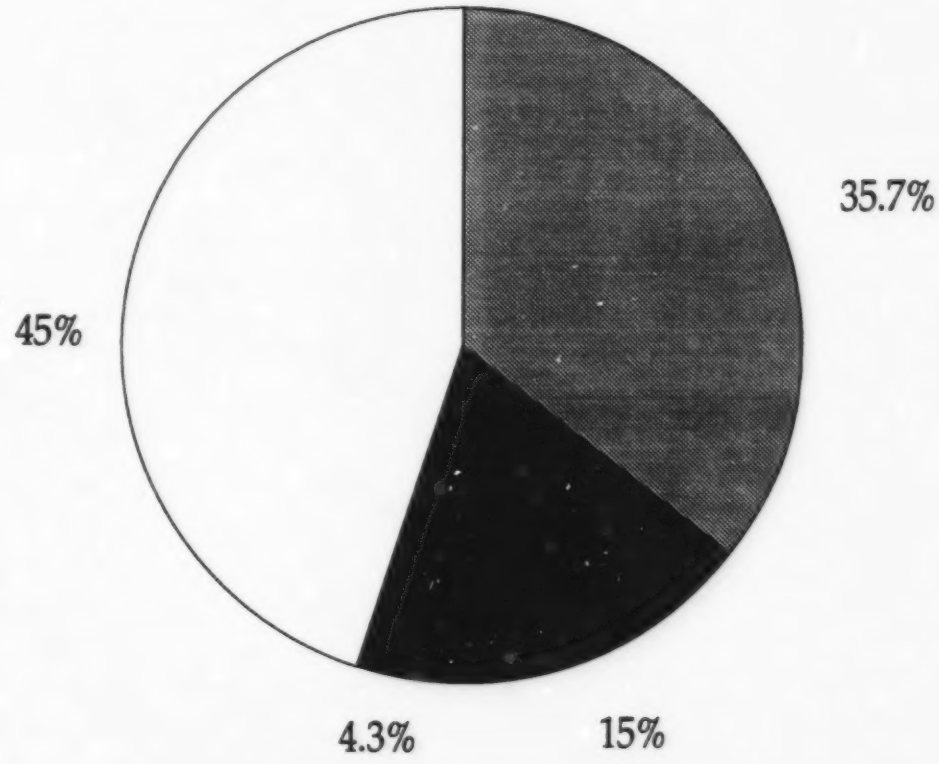


1990-91 GENERAL REVENUE FUND

Summary of Sub-Programmes Transactions for the year ended March 31, 1991

	1990-91 Estimates	Special Warrant	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Total Funds Available	Total Expended	Surplus (Deficit)	% Surplus (Deficit)
Departmental Support								
Vote 1								
1.0.1 Minister's Office	212,069	–	6,000	0	218,069	207,230	10,839	5.0
1.0.2 Deputy Minister's Office	221,104	–	8,000	0	229,104	220,855	8,249	3.6
1.0.3 Public Communications	211,493	–	17,000	0	228,493	174,497	53,996	23.6
1.0.4 Corporate Planning Services	404,730	–	4,000	0	408,730	347,633	61,097	14.9
1.0.5 Financial Services	1,686,286	–	0	23,000	1,663,286	1,623,269	40,017	2.4
1.0.6 Human Resource Services	485,315	–	0	12,000	473,315	447,608	25,707	5.4
1.0.7 Information Services	599,395	–			599,395	591,167	8,228	1.4
TOTAL VOTE 1	**3,820,392**	**0**	**35,000**	**35,000**	**3,820,392**	**3,612,259**	**208,133**	**5.4**
Recreation Development								
Vote 2								
2.1 Program Support	781,150	–	0	171,058	610,092	588,134	21,958	3.6
2.2 Financial Assistance	32,074,424	–	0	0	32,074,424	32,055,695	18,729	0.1
2.3 Community Recreation & Sport	3,982,497	–	250,799	0	4,233,296	4,147,108	86,188	2.0
2.4 Provincial Recreation & Sport Development	3,291,470	–	0	79,741	3,211,729	3,108,528	103,201	3.2
TOTAL VOTE 2	**40,129,541**	**0**	**250,799**	**250,799**	**40,129,541**	**39,899,465**	**230,076**	**0.6**
Provincial Parks								
Vote 3								
3.1 Program Support	2,185,830	–	742,000	0	2,927,830	2,936,430	(8,600)	(0.3)
3.2 Operations	21,535,713	–	0	632,000	20,903,713	20,554,680	349,033	1.7
3.3 Parks - Reconstruction	7,715,693	–	0	110,000	7,605,693	7,509,061	96,632	1.3
3.4 Parks - Construction & Redevelopment	350,000	–	0	0	350,000	302,325	47,765	13.6
TOTAL VOTE 3	**31,787,236**	**0**	**742,000**	**742,000**	**31,787,236**	**31,302,496**	**484,740**	**1.5**
Kananaskis Country								
Vote 5								
5.1 Program Support	1,810,391	–			1,810,391	1,638,676	171,715	9.5
5.2 Operations	9,932,432	–			9,932,432	9,940,233	(7,801)	(0.1)
5.3 Redevelopment & Construction	1,630,485	–			1,630,485	1,687,116	(56,631)	(3.5)
TOTAL VOTE 5	**13,373,308**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13,373,308**	**13,266,025**	**107,283**	**0.8**
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	**89,110,477**	**0**	**1,027,799**	**1,027,799**	**89,110,477**	**88,080,245**	**1,030,232**	**1.2**

ALBERTA RECREATION AND PARKS
General Revenue Fund
Expenditures: 1990-1991



1990-91 Recreation Grants

Grant Name	Number of Applicants	Dollar Amount (in thousands)
Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program	2,426	20,085.0
Urban Parks Operations	5	3,306.5
Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas Operations	190	2,891.3
Capital City Park Operations	1	2,198.9
Provincial Recreation and Sport Association Development	106	1,882.7
Community Recreation Development	70	1,079.5
Canada Games/Western Canada Games/Arctic Games	40	175.1
Fitness Development	9	171.5
National and International Events	32	101.4
International Sport Exchanges	6	135.7
Provincial Recreation Development	3	28.0
Total Recreation Development	2,888	32,055.6
Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas Capital	52	2,370.0
Urban Parks Capital	19	3,000.0
Total Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	71	5,370.0
Grand Total	2,959	37,425.6

1990-91 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES UPGRADING PROJECTS

Notikewin Provincial Park
Restored after spring flooding.

O'Brien Provincial Park
Restored after spring flooding.

Young's Point Provincial Park
New group-use area completed.

Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park
Campsites were provided with power.

Winagami Lake Provincial Park
Constructed a wading pool.

Dinosaur Provincial Park
A multi-year upgrading project initiated. New water and sewer treatment facilities constructed in preparation for upgrading and redevelopment of camping and day-use facilities.

Concession/Shower Building design, scheduled for construction in 1992, was completed.

Kinbrook Island Provincial Park
Major upgrading and re-development of campground and day-use facilities. Completed improvement to public swimming beach.

Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park
Construction of group-use shelter and rock art interpretive trail completed.

Park Lake Provincial Park
Completed new playground, footpaths, group-use toilet facilities and trailer dump station.

Gregoire Lake Provincial Park
Capital upgrading completed with the completion of an office-maintenance building.

Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park
New water system and wading pool.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park
Upgrading continued into its second year with the re-development of Campground A, day-use areas and the development of new shower/washroom facilities.

Thunder Lake Provincial Park
Re-development completed.

Aspen Lake Provincial Park
Re-development of Brewer's Campground completed and upgrading of the main boat launch, beach, picnicking and parking facilities started.

Crimson Lake
Development of hiking trails undertaken.

Calhoun Bay Provincial Recreation Area
New campground completed.

Dunvegan Provincial Recreation Area
Commenced construction of a new campground.

Ghost Reservoir Provincial Recreation Area
Commenced construction of a new boat launch, parking and picnic facility.

Other major maintenance projects in provincial parks included regravelling of roads, resanding of beaches, repair to buildings and repainting of facilities.

1982 - 1991PROVINCIAL PARK AND PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA CAMPING STATISTICS

Category	Individual Campter Nights								
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
Provincial Parks (excluding Kananaskis Country)	984,829	981,744	942,434	856,656	1,020,821	864,479	869,217	821,349	870,926
Provincial Recreation Areas (excluding Kananaskis Country)	-*	-*	-*	-*	-*	157,917	148,545	138,309	160,235
Kananaskis Country	162,992	256,243	339,846	350,598	415,174	421,227	422,395	418,531	415,783
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	1,443,623	1,440,157	1,378,189	1,446,944

*Provincial Recreation Area camping use, prior to 1987/88, cannot be reliably compared to that of subsequent years.

ORGANIZATION CHART